

# Season of Prayer for STATE MISSIONS

September 12 to 15  
1976

Margaret Lackey Offering for

## STATE MISSIONS GOAL

\$275,000

Ridgecrest Home Mission Week

## Bold Mission Thrust Gets Major Boost

By Dan Martin

RIDGECREST, N. C. (BP) — Bold Mission Thrust, the emphasis aimed at evangelizing the nation by 1980, got a major denominational boost here.

Representatives of the Southern Baptist Convention Woman's Missionary Union, Brotherhood Commission, Executive Committee, and Stewardship Commission joined the Home Mission Board in presenting the emphasis to more than 2,000 persons at Home Mission Week at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center.

Also participating were the editors of 19 state Baptist papers and of Baptist Press, the SBC news service.

Bold Mission Thrust, a major emphasis for the denomination's Home Mission Board, has as its twin aim evangelizing and "congregationalizing" the nation.

"This is an opportune time for Bold Mission Thrust," said Arthur B. Rutledge, HMB executive director-treasurer. "People are more open to the gospel now than they have been in decades. People are seeing we need to make a turn; that we need help beyond ourselves."

Rutledge cited the 12.7 million strong SBC.

"For the past five years, we have exceeded 400,000 baptisms

Pastoral Aid

Provides Full-

Time Ministry

By Ervin Brown  
Director of Associational Missions  
DeSoto Baptist Association

I have a deep conviction that Pastoral Aid is "Mission Money" well spent!

In our Association it has meant the difference between several of our churches having a "full-time" pastor or having a "working" pastor with limited time for this church. When a pastor who has been forced to have secular employment is able to give full time to his church work, it is a special blessing to the pastor and to the church. The pastor is able to attend the local pastors' conference, and other meetings that help him in his training and to provide a fellowship with other pastors that he could not have before. This can be a great value to him.

In several of our NEW churches, pastoral Aid has meant that a well-trained and experienced man

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each year. That is more than two million people in the past five years. People are responsive to gospel."

He added it would be "unthinkable for our evangelistic minded denomination not to structure itself for growth. One of the unique things about Southern Baptists

is that we are committed to growth."

Rutledge dipped into the political arena to note the nomination of Southern Baptist Jimmy Carter. It has helped "people in areas where Southern Baptists are relatively unknown to learn something about Southern Baptists. People in all

(Continued on page 2)

## Offering Aids Camp Ministry, Minority Work

By Marjean Patterson  
Executive Secretary,  
Mississippi WMU

Several areas of special interest and concern to Baptist women and young people in Mississippi are made possible by the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering.

Some outstanding leaders among National Baptist women were present at Camp Garaywa last week during the sessions of local WMU leaders training. Their transportation, room and board, and registration fees were made possible by Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering.

Choctaw Indians boys and girls were provided with missions camping experiences at Garaywa this summer partially because of

the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering.

One of the needs of some of the Choctaw Baptist churches is for trained pianists to contribute to the worship services. With State Mission Offering, piano lessons are offered to any Choctaw young person or adult who is willing to discipline himself to train his musical ability. These lessons, provided at the Baptist Indian Center, have helped to develop musicians in some of the Choctaw churches.

Area leadership clinics for women in National Baptist churches provide information, training and fellowship. These are made possible by Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering.

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GOALS	
New Church Expansion	\$199,500
Garaywa	54,700
Church Building Aid	11,000
Pastoral Aid	5,000
Disaster Relief	25,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$275,000</b>

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# Baptist Record

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## State Missions

# Season Of Prayer September 12-15

September is state missions month in a number of states, and in Mississippi that means a season of prayer Sept. 12 to 15 and the annual Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions with a goal this year of \$275,000.

"There is no way we can over estimate the importance of this offering," said Dr. Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

New churches are needed in the

face of population growth and help is needed for churches already established that cannot meet the challenge alone, he added. A disaster relief program is desperately needed, he said.

The week of prayer and the offering are sponsored by the Woman's Mission Union of the state. Miss Marjean Patterson is the executive secretary. She has declared that though the week of prayer is a WMU program and the Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions is promoted by the WMU, the task will not be successful without the cooperation of the entire church.

The five areas of the offering goal include an item for \$34,700 for WMU operation expenses and for work with Indians and Black Baptists.

The largest figure in the offering goal is \$199,300 for new church expansion. This money is used to help local associations purchase land in the areas of population growth so that churches can be established when the needs arise.

Disaster relief in the total budget for \$25,000. Church Building Aid has a goal of \$11,000, and Pastoral Aid has a goal of \$5,000.

Each church in the state has been sent several items to aid in information concerning the needs represented in the offering goal. These include the regular week of prayer study material and a film strip complete with a taped narration and a written script.

## Season Of Prayer Makes Missions Needs Known

Mississippi Baptists will be joining hands and heads and opening pocketbooks when the State Mission Season of Prayer needs are made known to every church member in our convention during mid-September.

With abundant optimism, courage and faith in God and in Mississippi Baptists, convention leaders are projecting a worthy, challenging goal of \$275,000 for the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering. This is the greatest state mission-offering goal ever in the life of our convention.

Margaret Lackey was the executive secretary of Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union at a time in history when funds were scarce and Baptists were not as numerous as now. Yet I think she would not be surprised to know of the goal for this year's offering for this woman of great vision believed in what Mississippi Baptists could do for the Lord's work when properly challenged.

Excellent materials for use with the State Mission Season of Prayer have been produced and distributed widely throughout the state. Filmstrips, program booklets, theme posters, offering envelopes and family prayer reminders all have been furnished every congregation.

It is our hope that the State Mission filmstrip will be utilized in at least 1,000 of our churches during September. In this way, Mississippi Baptists will be able to see, as well as hear about how the State Mission Offering has benefitted individuals and congregations in our state.

I pray that every congregation affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention will catch the spirit of mission advance in the Magnolia State and that every member will respond with prayer and offerings.

—Marjean Patterson  
Executive Secretary,  
Mississippi WMU

## Population Growth Is Church Expansion Key

By Dr. Earl Kelly  
Executive Secretary-Treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist  
Convention Board

In 1974 the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board entered "The Decade of Advance" with a goal to establish 100 new churches in fast population growth areas. Two years later 40 new churches have already come into existence.

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board has made sizeable investment in 13 of these churches and the others have been financed by local groups. More than \$350,000 has been spent since 1974 for church sites and trailers. Funds are needed to purchase land in the paths of obvious population growth.

After growth takes place inflated land prices makes it difficult to find suitable sites.

(Continued on page 2)

Some \$75,000 has already been committed for 1977. This only leaves \$124,000 of the anticipated State Mission Offering for new ventures. Past experience indicates this sum will be inadequate to match the opportunities as they arise.

In the very near future a Con-

(Continued on page 2)

## Record Number Meets For Preaching Week

RIDGECREST, N. C. — The Bible Preaching Conference established a record attendance for the summer season here at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center with a total registration of 3,075 people.

Approximately 1,000 of the guests were young people who participated in the popular Youth Horizons Conference.

## Church Building Aid Provides Continuity

By J. W. Brister  
Director of Missions  
Gulf Coast Association

The Shoreline Park Baptist Chapel was started in an old barracks building secured from the

navy base in Gulfport, Miss. The building was first used by the sponsoring church, Waveland Baptist Church, as their first unit. Following the completion of the permanent building here, the old barracks was moved to Shoreline Park Subdivision some two miles north of Waveland. The Gulf Coast Baptist Association has purchased six lots there with the help of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

A pastor was secured with the help of pastoral aid from Mississippi Baptists. A short while after, Hurricane Betsy hit the New Orleans area.

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## Hobbs Retires From "The Baptist Hour"

FORT WORTH (BP) — Herschel H. Hobbs, the man who—through "The Baptist Hour" — has preached to more people than any other Southern Baptist pastor, has asked to be relieved of his duties on the long-running radio program heard on 304 stations in the U. S. and around the world.

His final sermon on the program, a modified worship service produced and syndicated by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, will be preached on September 26, about one month short of his 90th birthday.

Hobbs, who has preached more than 700 "Baptist Hour" sermons, described his work as "a privilege beyond description. It has also been a tremendous responsibility. And it has been a labor of love. I have neither received nor deserved a salary for this assignment for my denomination and my Lord."

During the 18 years he has

been recording sermons for "The Baptist Hour," the now retired pastor and former Southern Baptist Convention president has never had to postpone a recording session due to voice trouble. A heart attack more than five years.

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## Disaster Relief Offering Will Give Preparation

By Elmer Howell  
Director, Brotherhood Department, MBCB

During the last several years various sections of Mississippi have experienced disaster, either by hurricane, tornado, or flood damage.

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board has approved the organization of a disaster relief task force. This disaster relief program will be put into effect by the development of three distinct phases:

1. Set Up Organization  
Suggested Organizational Pattern  
(Continued on page 2)

# Bold Mission Thrust Gets Major Boost

(Continued from page 1) sections of our land are learning a little about us and that is not hurting . . . It is helping."

Gerald Palmer, head of the HMB missions section, noted: "We know the answer to the question that is being asked across our land: 'What does it mean to be born again?'"

He added: "Without apology, this is a time for direct, intense, personal evangelism."

Carolyn Weatherford, WMU executive director, commented: "At the end of 200 years, our nation is still not Christian. Southern Baptists must bear responsibility for a good part of that."

She said that if Bold Mission Thrust is to succeed, "We must have mission action. Mission action is an organized effort of a church . . . to minister and to witness. Ministry and witness are the sharp, two edges of the sword, and you can hardly have one without the other."

"If we are going to present the claims of Christ boldly to our nation, we are going to have to do more than just take the opportunities as they present themselves. We are going to have to organize ourselves to carry out this effort."

Miss Weatherford added: "The Lord did not put us here to do the best we can. He gave us the commission to go into all the world and preach the gospel."

Glendon McCullough, executive director of the Brotherhood Commission, told participants: "Our conventions and associations have not yet really dealt with lay involvement in our denomination, and one aspect that we have not dealt with is the role of women in the church and as missionaries."

"Bold Mission Thrust is not intended for denominational leaders, mission board, pastors, staff members. It is intended for every believer."

"If we are going to have a Bold Mission Thrust, we are going to help all of God's people. If we are going to have a Bold Mission Thrust, all of God's children have got to be involved."

He said he wishes "we had developed a cooperative program of human resources, but we haven't done so well in that area."

"Jesus in his ministry seemed to seek our ordinary people and help them do extraordinary things," McCullough added. "This can be the basic Bold Mission Thrust today — ordinary people

doing extraordinary things."

Edgar Cooper, editor of the Florida Baptist Witness, told editors he feels "a spirit of cooperation we haven't had in several years."

But, he warned planners not to "overlook inspiration. We can get bogged down in statistics, planning, computer data and overlook inspiration."

"I think this missions thrust should have a deep spiritual current," he added.

A. C. Queen, editor of the Pennsylvania Baptist, noted he feels "We are getting a boost in what we already are doing."

"We are overwhelmed by the assignment of sharing the gospel with every person," Queen added. "We have 125 congregations and about 15,000 members (in Pennsylvania and South New Jersey). We are attempting by the assignment to take on eight million unchurched people and three or four million more in somebody's church who are not born again. We are overwhelmed by the assignment."

"But we are optimistic. We feel we are on course. We feel we are building toward the future."

## Pastor-Missionary Retreats Scheduled In September

Pastor-Missionary retreats will be held Sept. 7 and 8 at Roosevelt State Park near Morton and Sept. 9 and 10 at Paul Johnson Park near Hattiesburg. The retreats will be sponsored by the Cooperative Missions Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

A third retreat is Sept. 2 at Leroy Percy Park near Hollandale.

Dr. Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Convention Board, will be the featured speaker for each of the retreats. He will also conduct questions and discussion periods during the retreats.

Other messages will be delivered by Dr. Foy Rogers, director of the Cooperative Missions Department; and Therman Bryant, consultant in the department, will preside at each of the retreats.

A discussion of the relationships of the church will be conducted at Roosevelt State Park by Rev. James W. Nelson, director of the Department of Rural and Urban Missions for the Home Mission Board.

Other program personalities at the Roosevelt State Park retreat and their subjects will include John A. Williams of Macon, Ephesians; Charles Davis of Collinsville, Philippians; Mike Thrower of Thomaston, I Corin-

thians; Eddie Gandy of Brookhaven, II Corinthians; Troy B. Land of Mendenhall, Colossians; James Pugh Sr. of Montrose, I Thessalonians; Daniel L. Henderson of Morton, II Thessalonians; Cal Cooley of Philadelphia, Galatians; Julius Thompson of Jackson, II Timothy; Robert H. Perry of Raleigh, Titus; Glen Davis of Louisville, Hebrews; Royce Laster of Kosciusko, Romans; and Arzone Burns of Forest, I Timothy.

The Bible study at Paul Johnson Park will be led by Dr. Don H. Stewart of the William Carey College faculty.

Other speakers will include A. M. Moore III of Gulfport, Ephesians; Herschel Wren of Petal, Philippians; Herman McAlpin of Hattiesburg, Romans; Gary Bolin of Gloster, I Corinthians; Ken Marler of Monticello, II Corinthians; Jimmy Beck of Carriere, I Thessalonians; Martin Hayden of Laurel, II Thessalonians; Donnie Parker of Lucedale, I Timothy; Mike Street of McComb, Galatians; Billy Whitaker of Quitman, II Timothy; Doug Warren of Silver Creek, Titus; Joel Fisher of Clara, Hebrews.

The Bible study leader at Leroy Percy Park is Dr. William W. Stevens of the Mississippi College faculty.

Other program personalities are

to be for one day only.

The meals and the lodging will be furnished free of charge, Bryant pointed out. Those attending the retreats are asked to bring pillows and linens.

### New Church Chooses First Deacons

On August 8, the newly constituted Bovina Church held its first deacon election by secret ballot. The following men were elected. James Ahner, Hilton Dawson, Charles Hill and Jack Harper. The church has established the rotating system for the deacons and also will be using the "Deacon Family Ministry Plan."

On August 15 three of these men were ordained, Jack Harper being already ordained. At this special service, Dr. John McCall First Church, Vicksburg, charged the church, and Rev. David Kendall, of Trinity Church, Vicksburg, charged the deacons. Dr. Norman O'Neal, associational missionary for Warren County, delivered the ordination prayer and Rev. Guy Grey of Immanuel Church, Vicksburg gave the benediction. Other churches represented were the Long Lake, Vicksburg, and the Northwest Hills, Jackson.

A Constitution and By-laws was adopted on August 15 in the morning worship hour. The budget for 76-77 will show an increase in Cooperative Program giving of 2% and associational missions giving of 1%. "God is so good, it's just onward and upward . . ." says Jasper Collins, pastor.

### Baylor Alumni To Meet

Former students of Baylor University who live in Mississippi have formed a Mississippi Baylor Alumni Club. William E. Ballou, minister of education at Alta Woods Baptist Church in Jackson, is the president. For its next meeting the club plans to meet at the Holiday Inn Downtown in Jackson for a viewing party of the Baylor-University of Houston football game. This meeting will be Sept. 11 at 3 p.m. in the Raintree Room. Reservations may be made by calling Ballou at Alta Woods Church in Jackson before Sept. 8.

nual fire insurance premiums and assistance with the purchasing of materials and supplies for Garaywa maintenance.

We're grateful, Mississippi Baptists, for the allocation of \$30,950 for Camp Garaywa, \$1,250 for special work with National Baptists and \$2,500 for special work with Indians in the state.

### Hobbs Retires

#### From "The Baptist Hour"

(Continued from page 1) ago slowed him briefly but didn't really stop him. Instead of his flying to Fort Worth to record, a Radio-TV Commission engineer moved equipment to Oklahoma City to record him there.

"A denomination is fortunate to produce a man like Herschel Hobbs at least once in every generation. Dr. Hobbs comes from the school of ministers who believe in the excellence of preparation," said Paul M. Stevens, commission president, in expressing regret at Hobbs' decision to step down.

"He established himself as a pastor whose ministry was 'text-book' in its classical application and he applied himself to the life of the denomination — that is, to its growth and expansion throughout the world," Stevens said.

"He is a man who has paid his dues in all areas of the Christian ministry and, as such, he made a superb contribution through 'The Baptist Hour'."

Stevens said the Radio and Television Commission will "continue to use 'The Baptist Hour' as a great evangelical instrument in broadcasting and to select men with pastoral experience to reach the people of America and the world." He said Frank Pollard, pastor of First Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss., will preach on the program in October, November and December.

One of the letters Hobbs received was from a young woman who thanked him for saving her life.

"She had checked into a hotel room and was prepared to turn on the gas when I asked, on the radio, a hook question, wanting to know how things were going," Hobbs recalled. "I had said, 'Why don't we talk about it?' She listened to the sermon and didn't turn the gas on."

Hobbs also received numerous letters from missionaries telling him they used "The Baptist Hour" sermons to teach English. Many other missionaries, away from their own church fellowships, considered him their special pastor.

### Thank You

No words adequately can express our appreciation for the many kindnesses shown us in recent days in connection with my retirement from the editorship of the Baptist Record.

To staff members, Baptist Building personnel, our fellow church members, friends far and near, and members of our family, we can only say, "thank you, and God bless you everyone!"

Joe and Mabel Odle

### Baptist Missionary Dies In Argentina

Buenos Aires, Argentina — Martha (Mrs. Ernest C.) Pippin, Southern Baptist missionary to Argentina, died here in the British Hospital at 10:30 a.m. Aug. 20 after suffering a cerebral hemorrhage at 9:30 a.m. August 19. She was 49 years old.

Memorial services were held in Buenos Aires Aug. 23 in Spanish and Aug. 24 in English. Following the services, Pippin accompanied the body to Nashville, Tenn., where funeral services were held.

The Pippins were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in April 1960.

In 1975 they became directors of the MK (children of missionaries) student home in Buenos Aires. Recently another missionary couple took over the responsibility of the home and the Pippins have been engaged in general evangelism.

The former Martha Smith, Mrs. Pippin was a native of Old Hickory, Tenn.

### Churches Are Stewards, Too

The magnificent buildings gave evidence of expert care. The grass was trimmed, the shrubbery was clipped, and flowers were blooming.

"Mr. Tom, the owner, is away," the old caretaker, Uncle Henry, said. "His folks built this place with their own hands. When Mr. Tom lost it, his father bought it back. He set up a fund for it and asked that it never be sold."

"How do you know what to do around here?"

"The old man gave me instructions before his death," Uncle Henry replied. "Now, Mr. Tom comes every few years. He tells me what to do."

"But you keep the buildings painted and as trim as if he were coming tomorrow."

"Just as if he were coming today, Sir," Uncle Henry said.

"Mr. Tom trusts me. He calls me his steward."

A steward is one who takes care of another's property.

The word "steward" means a manager of a house.

Churches practice responsible stewardship when they give through the Cooperative Program.

Churches are stewards, too.

## NEW CHURCH EXPANSION GOAL

\$199,300

## Population Growth Is Church Expansion Key

(Continued from page 1)

Within a matter of months 7,500 people will be living in Castlewoods and a Baptist church will be there to minister to their spiritual needs. This is but one of a hundred examples of what State Mission money will do during "The Decade of Advance."

## Preaching Must Prevail

### Anglican Tells Baptists

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — "The unmaking of a minister is the downgrading of preaching," an Anglican clergyman told students at New Orleans Seminary here.

"A seminary should attach the weight to the homiletics (preaching) program that homiletics deserve," said A. Lenard Griffith, assistant minister of St. Paul's Church, Toronto, Canada, during the seminary's annual Pastor's Conference.

"Catholics, who have rarely taught homiletics are gradually adding the course to their seminary curriculums because they see the need for it in their churches," said Griffith, who served at the City Temple Church, London, before coming to Canada.

"There is not a single full-time professor of homiletics in the city of Toronto and as a consequence, you never ask a Canadian professor to fill your pulpit. . . unless, of course, you want to employ the church," he added.

"The greatest disappointment I have ever had was the falling away from preaching in the United Kingdom Church. That is why I am an Anglican today. The future of the church in Canada for many people is a group of people getting together, in a home, without a leader or preacher, and interpreting the Bible. There will not be worship," Griffith continued.

"You Baptists and Methodists and Presbyterians have maintained the centrality of worship. It is the constituent event in the congregational life of the church. When the church stops worshiping, the church will die," he said.

"A seminary should attach the importance to the homiletic program it deserves. You as a seminarian are taking all of these courses to gain information so that you will be able to preach better sermons.

"To your pastors I want to say that you will find that your only ambition is to advance the Gospel so that you can be spared the schizophrenia of the servant of God when His will clashes against the desire of the human man within you.

"I hope that you will always seek to be used by Him and be satisfied only with His approval," continued Griffith. "We want to feel secure, but if you can ever get beyond this seeking after se-

REVIVAL RESULTS

Dry Creek (Simpson): August 8-13; Rev. Donnie Bond, home missionary, Conrad, Montana, evangelist; Rev. Ray Fuller, pastor; many rededications; the Sunday following the revival, 25 professions of faith; Sunday, August 22, there were 21 baptized.

Sunrise Church, Hattiesburg: Rev. Gerald Aultman, evangelist; R. L. Hullum, song leader; Rev. Robert H. Rogers, pastor; six professions of faith; four by letter; two rededications. (Also, a record attendance for recent years was set at 112 on the Sunday beginning the revival, and the record was reset at 120 the next Sunday.)

First Church, Union: August 8-13; Dr. L. G. Meadows, pastor of First Church, Lake Alfred, Florida, evangelist; Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie Rainier of First Church, Pearl, guest musicians (Mr. Rainier surrendered to full-time Christian service while a member of First Church, Union); F. Douglas White, pastor; four to fifteen responding to the invitation at every service; 19 professions of faith; two additions by letter; 48 rededications. The pastor states, "Our church just finished building a magnificent auditorium that cost close to \$600,000. We watched this beautiful building fill almost to capacity for every night of revival. Our Choir loft was totally filled in every service. It was a real spiritual experience and God's power was prevalent."

Woman's Missionary Union  
Operational \$30,950  
Indian Work 2,500  
Negro Work 1,250  
Total \$34,700

## Offering Aids Camp Ministry, Minority Work

(Continued from page 1) sible because of the State Mission Offering.

Camp Garaywa provides camping and retreat facilities for some 5,000-6,000 Mississippians each year. The Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering provides for salaries of two full time workers, an

# BUILDING AID GOAL

# \$11,000

Swor At Glorieta

## Sixty-Nine Years Young

GLORIETA, N. M. — "I enjoy being with college students more than any other age group. People my age have arthritis and grandchildren, and I'm afflicted with neither," equipped Chester E. Swor, writer-lecturer from Jackson, Miss.

This remark, directed to collegians attending the recent Student Conference at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center, is representative of the 69-year-old humor, acceptance and love for young people that have given him a special ministry.

His weeklong engagement at Glorieta was the 21st this year, contributing to an average annual travel total of 30,000 miles. His schedule this year included 17 successive weeks of speaking to college and high school audiences at retreats, Baptist Student Unions, churches and summer conferences. His primary purpose is to share ways to strengthen Christian commitment.

"My main goal since 1943, when I quit teaching to take up lecturing full time, has been to communicate the Christian calling to commitment. I try as best I can to relate the Bible to individual needs, even when issues are delicate or controversial."

Removed some 47 years from college campus, Swor speaks uniquely to the needs of young people. The best explanation for this ability to relate to generations of youth lies in an accepting, non-judgmental attitude.

"I have always tried to keep close to students, to listen and to understand," Swor said. "This has not always been easy, especially in the 60s when I didn't approve of some activities. Even when I couldn't approve, I have tried to understand."

"Young people respond to acceptance," he continued. "I believe they have a kind of inner radar which alerts them to ac-

ceptance or criticism in a person, and they respond accordingly.

"Humor sometimes opens doors," Swor added. "If members of the audience laugh, they are less likely to resent what you have to say."

Swor's interest in young people began long ago. His main love, even in college, was counseling. As professor of English, dean of men and director of student activities at Mississippi College, Swor combined counseling with teaching for 14 years. In 1943 he put aside teaching to lecture and has not regretted the decision.

"As long as I sense that I'm making my best contribution now, I'll continue in this avenue."

In relating a situation in which he substituted for a popular athlete at a conference, Swor expressed a sentiment which explains much of his appeal.

"If you have a chance to hear the young athlete later," he told the youth, "be sure to do so. He can add a lot to your life. In our attempts to illustrate God's Word and to learn of life, he can tell you the beginning of the story."

"But," Swor added, "I can tell you both the beginning and the end of my story, a lifelong attempt to merge my life with God."

Dr. J. Ralph Noonester, president of William Carey College, was the master of ceremonies for

the occasion. He introduced James C. Goodwin, president of Metropolitan National Bank, Biloxi, and a Carey alumnus, and Dr. Frank Gunn, pastor of First Church, Biloxi, and Rev. Bobby Perry, pastor of First Baptist Church of Moss Point, for anti-phonetic scripture reading. Both are Carey trustees.

Dr. Kelly pointed out that of the more than \$1 million to be spent on Baptist colleges in Mississippi this year, \$1.8 million will come from mission funds at the direction of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

"This is a testimony of the faith of Mississippi Baptists in their Baptist colleges," he declared.

Those attending the dedication ceremonies on the front lawn of the new campus were serenaded by the 502nd Air Force Band from Keesler Air Force Base at Biloxi while a gentle breeze blew in from the Gulf of Mexico just across the highway.

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Dr. Kelly detailed three objectives that a denomination has a right to expect from its institutions of higher learning. They were scriptural perspective in life, spiritual purpose in life, and significant preparation for life.

"In Christian higher education, the Scriptures are the foundation on which Christian education is built, the backdrop against which all other subjects are viewed, the framework within which all else is to be interpreted, and the core around which all other subjects are to be integrated. Curriculum is neither Christian or unchristian, but the Bible can be made to permeate and penetrate one's approach and interpretation of the truths in all fields of study.

"It is this premise that leads the denomination to require Christian professors. Only a committed Christian can see the whole meaning of human existence and destiny in terms of Christian revelation. A Christian's innermost self will break through the subject matter he is teaching.

"Christian education is the impartation of a point of view that puts Christ at the vital center of all knowledge and life. It is indoctrination. All education — not just Christian education — is indoctrination. Your denomination is making a deliberate attempt to cultivate the conviction that it is not only proper and legitimate but also vitally necessary to see all things from the vantage point of the cross.

"Education is education only when it creates a sense of values, when it takes a stand, argues for

commitment, zealously proclaims a position. It is absurd to allow competing philosophies of life to gallop freely and suppose the best will win."

"At the very point in time when numerous pressure groups are being sustained by the courts in their drive to extract all distinctive Christian emphasis from public gatherings on college campuses, Christian institutions of higher learning need to emphasize the need of genuine worship. The Chapel should be at the heart of the campus. Chapel programs should provide the best Christian emphasis on the entire campus."

"A person should not underestimate the important influence of persons with whom he associates. A person is marked for life by the college he attends. Professors exert a tremendous influence on their students, but it is equally true that students influence the lives of other students."

"Baptists support Christian higher education out of mission funds only because they believe they must prepare young people to be responsible churchmen who possess a sense of vocational missions. I can assure you that our concern goes deeper than faculty, funds, and facilities. Our chief concern is Christian service in church and community. We want to believe that the Christian college is preparing people who are equipped to minister to a pagan society that has its values inverted. Our culture is more concerned

about air pollution than about moral pollution. It is more 'uptight' about the ecological problems of the 'garbage boom' than it is about the filth of pornography. Our society opposes cancer of the lungs but gives very little attention to the cancer of the soul."

"There is an acute shortage of dedicated and educated Christians who know the Word of God and can relate it to the world's needs today. We need more well-trained pastors, directors of Christian education and music, Christian journalists, missionaries, teachers in grade schools, high schools, and colleges. We need Christian leaders in business, government, and industry. Most of all we need educated Christian parents."

The coast campus will use buildings that were formerly a military academy. It has classrooms and library space already available as well as a kitchen and dining area. A portion of the main building has been remodeled for use as offices.

The library has 2,000 volumes on hand and a complete card index of the 90,000-volume library on the main campus in Hattiesburg. A van will make the trip each day to transport books that coast campus students check out.

Bobbye Wood, the reigning Miss Mississippi, is a William Carey student and was present for the dedication. She was introduced by Greg Bullock, president of the Carey Student Government Association.

Thursday, September 2, 1976

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 3

## Church Building Aid Provides Continuity

(Continued from page 1)

leans area and the side effects did considerable damage to the little building. The association set aside money to remodel the building, adding class rooms, rest rooms, and a kitchen. Things went well for almost three years. The first pastor to live on the field was there. The future looked bright.

Then tragedy struck. Hurricane Camille hit on Sunday night, August 17, 1969, leaving the building a total loss. The building was blown or washed 25 feet from its foundation and the muddy waters poured in the gaping holes where the doors and windows had been. A muddy slime was deposited all over everything. The members were busy trying to salvage what

little they could of their own homes and possessions. It looked like the end of the mission.

Baptists from all over the convention began to respond to the needs of these people. The first gift came from the intermediate Sunday School class from a Black church in Louisiana. The money was sent by a truck driver and tied up in a sock. The gift amounted to \$3.62. Contributions of all sizes from many sources poured in, including \$3,000 from a group of pastors in Georgia.

The first real boost came with a check for \$12,000 from the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board for disaster relief. This really gave the people heart. Lumber, building materials and labor were donated. The building was complet-



Shoreline Park Baptist Chapel in Gulf Coast Association meets in this comfortable building because of the Church Building Aid of Mississippi Baptists.

ed by the association underwriting a \$11,500 loan. The value of the building at the time of completion

was \$80,000. Thanks to Christian friends like Mississippi Baptists, this church is alive and well.

## Kelly Speaks At Dedication Of Carey's New Gulf Coast Campus

the occasion. He introduced James C. Goodwin, president of Metropolitan National Bank, Biloxi, and a Carey alumnus, and Dr. Frank Gunn, pastor of First Church, Biloxi, and Rev. Bobby Perry, pastor of First Baptist Church of Moss Point, for anti-phonetic scripture reading. Both are Carey trustees.

He also introduced Dr. William P. Osborn, administrative dean for William Carey College on the Coast, who said that the coast campus of the college could bring to people on the coast an individualization of education, could be a family oriented college, and could strengthen the work of Baptists on the coast.

He said there has not been a time when the need to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ has been greater, and he proclaimed the coast campus "the most beautiful Baptist college campus in Mississippi."

Dr. Kelly detailed three objectives that a denomination has a right to expect from its institutions of higher learning. They were scriptural perspective in life, spiritual purpose in life, and significant preparation for life.

"In Christian higher education, the Scriptures are the foundation on which Christian education is built, the backdrop against which all other subjects are viewed, the framework within which all else is to be interpreted, and the core around which all other subjects are to be integrated. Curriculum is neither Christian or unchristian, but the Bible can be made to permeate and penetrate one's approach and interpretation of the truths in all fields of study.

"It is this premise that leads the denomination to require Christian professors. Only a committed Christian can see the whole meaning of human existence and destiny in terms of Christian revelation. A Christian's innermost self will break through the subject matter he is teaching.

"Christian education is the impartation of a point of view that puts Christ at the vital center of all knowledge and life. It is indoctrination. All education — not just Christian education — is indoctrination. Your denomination is making a deliberate attempt to cultivate the conviction that it is not only proper and legitimate but also vitally necessary to see all things from the vantage point of the cross.

"Education is education only when it creates a sense of values, when it takes a stand, argues for

commitment, zealously proclaims a position. It is absurd to allow competing philosophies of life to gallop freely and suppose the best will win."

"At the very point in time when numerous pressure groups are being sustained by the courts in their drive to extract all distinctive Christian emphasis from public gatherings on college campuses, Christian institutions of higher learning need to emphasize the need of genuine worship. The Chapel should be at the heart of the campus. Chapel programs should provide the best Christian emphasis on the entire campus."

"A person should not underestimate the important influence of persons with whom he associates. A person is marked for life by the college he attends. Professors exert a tremendous influence on their students, but it is equally true that students influence the lives of other students."

"Baptists support Christian higher education out of mission funds only because they believe they must prepare young people to be responsible churchmen who possess a sense of vocational missions. I can assure you that our concern goes deeper than faculty, funds, and facilities. Our chief concern is Christian service in church and community. We want to believe that the Christian college is preparing people who are equipped to minister to a pagan society that has its values inverted. Our culture is more concerned

about Saturdays and Sundays at 4 p. m. The course carries 3 hours of college credit.

DIMENSIONS IN CULTURES is also composed of 30 lessons, each 30 minutes in length and will be aired each Sunday and Wednesday at 10 p. m. with repeats on Saturdays at 3 and 3:30 p. m. It also has 3 hours of credit.

College credit courses offered by BMC this Fall are COMMUNICATIONS ONE, a Mississippi ETV production explaining the overall process of communication; DIMENSIONS IN CULTURES, a general introductory course in the area of cultural anthropology and AS MAN BEHAVES, a general introduction to psychology acquainting students with a number of guest lecturers over the course.

COMMUNICATIONS ONE is composed of 30 lessons, each 30 minutes in length and will be aired each Tuesday and Friday at 10 a. m. with repeat broadcasts set for

Saturdays and Sundays at 4 p. m. The course carries 3 hours of college credit.

AS MAN BEHAVES is composed of 30 lessons, each 30 minutes in length and will be aired each Monday and Thursday at 10 p. m. with repeats to be aired on Sundays at 3 and 3:30 p. m. It too carries 3 hours of college credit.

The three courses were previewed August 29-31. Actual course work will begin September 1-2.

Persons interested in enrolling in the courses for credit from Blue Mountain College may obtain more information regarding cost and registration by contacting the Dean's Office, Blue Mountain College.

**BMC Offers Fall Courses Via ETV**

Blue Mountain College is offering nine hours of college credit

during the Fall semester when the Mississippi Authority for Educational Television (ETV) airs

courses which began Sunday night, August 29, according to an announcement made by BMC

Dean William N. Washburn.

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# The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

## EDITORIAL

### Full Speed And On Course

Allow a personal note, please, in this first statement as editor of the Baptist Record. Initially, I must say that I know of no other place on earth where I would rather be seeking to serve the Lord than right here. I realize those are words heard before many times in many places. I must insist that for me they are true.

The warmth of friendship that I have found in Mississippi has been most heartening. The spirit to be found in the state is inspiring.

The Baptist Record has achieved a high level of acceptance both inside the state and beyond. I pray this will continue to be the case. Certainly, we will bend every effort in that direction.

When I was in high school, I participated in different areas of athletics, but track was my favorite. Among the several track events that I entered, the 440-yard relay was favored. I suppose that was because one can see a pattern of life unfold in 45 seconds or less.

There were many thrills to the 440-yard relay. Many times it was my lot to be the first runner, with the job of having my team ahead at the first baton pass.

Other times I was named the anchor man and assigned the task of getting our baton across the finish line first. It was a great thrill to know that our team was off to a good start and we were leading after the first 110 yards. It was a thrill to cross the finish line first, carrying the hopes of three other fine runners.

But it seems the greatest thrill of all was waiting as anchor man and

looking back down the track to see our number three runner coming around the curve ahead of the field.

I attended a small high school, and when I was a senior we were the state champions in the 440-yard relay in our class. We won that event "going away," as they say in track circles. Our lead was increasing with every stride. I know, because I had been the starting runner in that particular race and was watching the conclusion of it with more than idle curiosity.

In a relay race the runner getting ready to take the baton from the one before him does not wait around until he feels he is ready to run before taking off. He has his eyes on the track ahead and is moving at almost full speed, waiting only for the feel of the baton in his back - stretched hand before he closes his hand around the baton and "turns on the steam."

Yes, a relay race is much akin to life. The baton, or the torch, as it may be, passes from hand to hand as each participant accepts it at his own starting point and brings it around to the best of his ability to the next one to handle in the best way that he can.

All of which brings me to the point of trying to pay tribute to the one who has just completed his portion of the Baptist Record relay. To say that he ran a good race is too much of an understatement. He was outstanding. A visit with Baptists around the state bears out this fact. The love for this man and the high esteem in which he is held are testimonies to his greatness.

He is a man of exceptional abil-

ity; and if there is one who knows him who doesn't call him friend, he would be hard to find.

It has been a great privilege to spend these two years in the office of the Baptist Record and in the Baptist Building. I am pleased to be a member of the team that is on the field at the present time and pray my endeavors will make a worthwhile contribution. I appreciate greatly the opportunity afforded me by Dr. Odle and Dr. Kelly leading both to the selection as associate editor and to the election as editor.

It has been a thrill to be here and know the Baptist Record is moving around the curve full-speed, on course, and looking great.

You've done a tremendous job, Joe Odle. You've handed us the baton with our team in excellent condition. We who are now accepting the baton, all of us who will be engaged in taking it on down the way for our stated periods, pledge to you and to all Mississippi Baptists our very best to see that it moves along in good style and with dignity and courage.

We pledge to "turn on the steam" in an all-out effort.

Our starting runner, J. B. Gambrill, got us away from the blocks in a fine way. All through almost 100 years the eight editors have carried the baton very well indeed. But we are not beginning the final lap, and we at the Baptist Record now must make our contributions so that the next editor and the next staff group won't have to start out behind. With God's help, we will.

The Baptist Record has a fine

## State Missions Challenge

In Mississippi, State Missions offers as many exciting concepts as do foreign missions and home missions. Indeed, in some instances in Mississippi state missions work is carried on right along side that of the Home Mission Board, and some of the Home Mission Board work is with foreign nationals who have made their way to our shores by ship.

The Season of Prayer for State Missions is Sept. 12 to 15 this year. The Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions is a companion effort which cannot be over-rated in its importance.

Though Mississippi probably has as many, and maybe even more, church members per capita as any other state, the lost here are just as lost as are those in Asia or anywhere else. The task of winning them is delegated to the local church for the most part, and a great part of the task of the state missions offering is in strengthening the local churches which need help and in establishing new ones where they are needed.

The state missions offering goals this year are divided into five areas. Three of them are directly involved with local church situations. The largest of the goals is the one for new church expansion. This figure is \$199,300. A sizeable population increase is expected in Mississippi within the next few years. The new church expansion fund is already buying new church sites in the paths of population growth so that there can be churches ready to minister to the newcomers when they arrive.

Churches which have suffered disasters in building losses can expect to find help through the state

missions offering because of an \$11,000 item in this year's goal.

And churches which need full-time pastors immediately and cannot pay full-time salaries will be aided by a \$5,000 item.

An effort to establish immediate disaster relief will call for a \$25,000 portion of the offering. And WMU operations expenses at Camp Garaywa and work with Indians and black Baptists have a total goal of \$34,700.

This rounds out the entire goal for the offering at \$275,000.

The Woman's Missionary Union is promoting the effort to reach the goal, but the entire church needs to be a part of it. A great deal of material is in the hands of each church and should help the congregation understand the needs and help each church prepare to be a part of reaching the goal.

Among the materials sent out to support the effort are a mission study program and a film strip complete with taped narration and written script designed to explain the areas of the offering.

This issue of the Baptist Record is dedicated to aiding the state missions cause, and special articles have been written by five persons relative to the five areas of the offering.

Those who wrote have had first-hand experience with the needs mentioned and with the help that can be afforded. It is hoped that each subscriber will take time to obtain the information that is available and then act on it.

It is a challenging goal, to be sure. But it represents less than 60 cents for each resident Mississippi Baptist.

plate that 100th anniversary issue coming up in February, it was obvious to whom we should turn for help in preparing an issue that would be historical and meaningful. Dr. Odle has accepted the assignment of aiding us in the formulation of that issue and has already begun to lay the groundwork.

staff of competent, hard-working, dedicated people. The members of the staff are due a special salute for their many years of loyal and dedicated service to the Baptist Record and to the Lord.

Incidentally, Dr. Odle is not through. As we began to contem-

press to you my personal appreciation for your work in this capacity. And this I do.

I appreciate the general leadership you have given to making our state per-

son one that is respected among your

peers and one that has spoken to the

needs of our churches. It has, in fact,

been the voice of the Mississippi Baptist

Convention. Too numerous to recall have

been instances when I have needed space

for programs, projects, and promotion

for the Church Training Department

and have always found you sympathetic

and cooperative.

You have been a job well done. For

that we are all grateful.

Kermit S. King

I count it all joy, dearly beloved Joe, as I think of you today. Your life has been a source of inspiration and blessing to me through the long years of our friendship in Him.

"WORD" is indeed the focal center

of my gratitude for you. You have con-

tinually and faithfully held up the

Name of Him Who is the Living Word.

With Spirit-given insight and power, you

have "rightly divided" the Inspired

and Holy Written Word. All of us, the

Baptists of Mississippi and the SBC,

are the beneficiaries of your gift from

the Lord in writing and presenting the

printed word.

It is with happy anticipation that I look forward, in the days to come, to fellowship in the continuing ministry of our blessed Lord as He unfolds His richest blessings upon you.

Gratefully, to Him and to you,

Roy Collum

I have greatly appreciated the cooperative spirit of Joe Odle as editor of the BAPTIST RECORD. Not only has he done his best to provide good space for news and publicity from our office

(Continued on page 5)

Dear Joe,

During the time that you have served as editor of the Baptist Record I have had the privilege of reading your editorials with a great deal of interest, as well as having had the opportunity of discussing doctrinal and denominational topics at length with you. Now these experiences in my life shall always stand out as valuable ones.

I would just like to say that your attitude toward publicizing departmental emphases and dispensing promotional information has been great all the while. I would just like to take this opportunity to say "thank you" for the many courtesies you have shown the Brotherhood Department during the time you have served as editor of the Baptist Record.

Sincerely,

Elmer Howell

Dear Joe,

All of us here in the Sunday School Department join in expressing our sincere and best wishes to you as the time of retirement becomes a reality.

You have supported the Bible teaching and reaching emphases in so many fine ways, both in the printed page of the Baptist Record and your personal, spoken contributions.

You have been recognized in the past as a strong Sunday School pastor and I am positive that your entire ministry will reflect this feeling to all who have known you during these years.

May God bless you and Mrs. Odle in the days ahead.

Bryant Cummings

Dear Dr. Odle,

Through my years in Mississippi I have known you as pastor, associate executive secretary, editor, and friend. It is appropriate upon your retirement as editor of The Baptist Record to ex-

The Baptist Record

515 Mississippi Street

Jackson, Miss. 38201

Don McGregor. Editor

Anne McWilliams Editorial Associate

William H. Sellers Bus. Manager

Official Journal of The

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CONVENTION BOARD

Earl Kelly Executive Secretary-Treasurer

The Baptist Building

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## The Baptist Forum

### Letters Of Appreciation Received For Ministry

Mississippi Baptists have been blessed for two generations by the ministry of Joe Odle. He has played many roles on the stage of life and deserves an academy award for each of them. Whether the role has been pastor, teacher, associate executive secretary, editor, or friend, Joe Odle has been a consistent example of what a Christian ought to be. He has exerted a positive unconscious influence on all of us who have been privileged to know him and work with him. One of the high points of my ministry has been the opportunity to work beside him during the past three years. My prayer is that the Lord will keep Joe and Mabel around for a long time. We need more people like them.

Earl Kelly

Dr. Joe Odle is a rare combination: a deeply spiritual man of God and a competent, sensitive newsman. Because of this unusual welding of gifts, this man has made a lasting and measureless contribution to Mississippi Baptists and to the work of the Lord. We are forever in his debt.

I feel that I can speak for Mississippi Baptists as we all wish for him and Mrs. Odle many happy and productive years as they continue to serve our Lord.

James Richardson

Dear Dr. Odle,

The position of editor of The Mississippi Baptist Record is one of the most important functions of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Evidence of this is the fact that the Baptist Record is the most eagerly anticipated and widely read news publication in the state. It provides stability in times of turmoil, inspiration in times of need, and information so essential to growth and development. Under your direction as editor, The Baptist Record has done all of these and more!

On behalf of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, let me express sincere appreciation to you for many years of dedicated and fruitful service as editor of The Baptist Record. All of us are keenly aware of your splendid record and deeply grateful to you for what you have done through the years. Your stable leadership will long be remembered by Mississippi Baptists.

May your retirement years be filled with rich memories of past successes and achievements, happy with many more opportunities of service, and productive for the one cause for which you dedicated yourself many years ago.

You will be missed — but not forgotten.

Gene A. Triggs, President  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

To our choice friend, Joe Odle,

How much we want to say:

Thank you for what your ministry has meant to us.

Thank you for caring enough to do your very best, for him.

Thank you for fulfilling faithfully your high calling to share Christ and the teachings of the Word of God through spoken and written channels.

How much we want to pray:

Thanking Him for using you.

Asking Him to bless you and your dear Mabel with many more years of effective service.

On behalf of your fellow church members,

Frank Pollard

Dear Brother McGregor:

The name of Joe Odle has long been associated in Southern Baptist life with fidelity to the Word of God, devotion to the missionary outreach through the Southern Baptist Convention, commitment to the mission of each individual church, and sensitivity to the hurts and hearts of those who need Jesus as Savior and Lord.

When you add all of these qualities to editorial excellence and journalistic skill, you have a combination which has not only meant much in the life of Mississippi Baptists, but also to the entire work of Southern Baptists at home and around the world. Mrs. Odle has been a help in all of his activities and has made a significant contribution in her own right. We thank God for the friendship and work of this wonderful team throughout the years.

We pray God's richest blessings on both of them and their every interest in the months and years ahead.

Sincerely yours,

Porter Routh

Executive Secretary-Treasurer,

SBC Executive Committee

Dr. Joe T. Odle has been a friend of the Christian Action Commission since

Dear Dr. Odle:

# When The Relationship Must Be Broken

By Clifton Perkins  
Director, Department of Church  
Minister Relations  
(Third In A Series)

One of my favorite stories is about a little boy who volunteered to take part in a civilian defense drill back in the wanning days of World War II. It was a simulated air raid, and the boy was told that he had been hit and cut by flying glass and that he was to lie under a tree until the first aid team came to take care of him. Those were the days when civilian defense was not very efficient, so several hours passed before anyone showed up to minister to the little fellow.

When the team finally did reach the tree, they found no one there. Instead they noticed a note sticking to the bark of the tree. It said, simply but conclusively, "Have bled to death and gone home."

Yes, in life some relationships just don't work out. Somebody "bleeds to death and goes home," so to speak. That is also true of the pastor and people relationship. Sometimes it doesn't work out.

Pastors often speak of the first few months on the new church field as the "honeymoon." There is the round of dinner invitations into various homes of the membership, and the joy of meeting new people. The church responds to the new pastor's leadership and he enthusiastically says, "I felt the call of God to come here." The people express the same sentiment.

Too many times this beautiful relationship changes. The lovely glow of warmth turns into the white heat of frustration, dissatisfaction.

faction, and maybe even bitterness. When this condition prevails, every effort should be made by pastor and church leaders to work out the difficulties in a spirit of prayer and good will.

If such efforts fail, consideration should be given to break the relationship because of honest differences between pastor and people. When this time arrives, utmost care must be taken to preserve the integrity of both the church and the minister.

Let it be stated plainly that a campaign to get rid of the pastor should not take place. Such campaigns magnify the problem — they might even tempt us to use unchristian tactics. Conflict appeals to our lower motives. The object becomes winning the struggle and not concern for the Kingdom of God and for each other.

In a Baptist church the majority rules, but it should never be a ruthless and unfeeling majority. Also, there should not be a "minority rule" because of a silent or indifferent majority. Once a pastor was informed by the chairman of deacons that a decision had been made in a secret deacon's meeting to ask for his resignation. Naturally, the pastor was shocked that he should be tried in his absence.

Why would we be less fair in a church than we are required to be in a court of law. "But we have a problem with our pastor," someone says. So what? As Sam Granade says, "Does the solution to a problem call for secrecy, deception, and unchristian attitudes? If so, we need to ask, 'What difference does Christianity make?'"

When the relationship between pastor and people becomes

strained to the point of breaking, the pastor should consider carefully the effectiveness of his witness and work. If he sees that he can no longer minister effectively because of irreconcilable differences, he should be honest enough and courageous enough to inform church leaders that he plans to leave as soon as he can find another place of service.

The church should certainly be willing to allow a pastor a reasonable time to secure another position. This is often a slow process among Baptists. Patience should be exercised. It should be kept in mind that we belong to a church group that frowns on a pastor applying for another pastoral position.

The church must avoid if at all possible an open confrontation in which they seek to dismiss the pastor. When open confrontation occurs, the church is often divided and its fellowship is dangerously weakened. Generations may pass before such differences are forgotten.

If the matter cannot be worked out in a Christian manner without taking it before a church business session, great care should be exercised. All parties should avoid cheap and underhand methods. A business meeting involving such important issues should be held only after proper notice has been given to all church members as to the time, place, and purpose of the meeting.

In the crisis of irreconcilable conflict, great responsibility rests upon pastor and people. Prayer and mutual concern should permeate all actions. Christ must be honored. Next week — "Preventive Measures."

called "Country Crossroads" and you wouldn't believe what listening to that man on that show has done for our family.

"I don't know whether you can understand this or not, Mister," she went on, "but my husband was really a wicked man. And our four children weren't Christians. Now, thanks to Jerry Clower and 'Country Crossroads,' all that has changed."

"You see, we like country music and we started listening to 'Country Crossroads' every Sunday afternoon at our house. It was about the only thing the entire family (two sons and two daughters) did together.

"Every Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock my oldest daughter would bring her two little children over and we'd all tune in KBHS here and listen to that show. Nobody would say a word during the entire time. And if the telephone rang, we just didn't answer it.

"I can't say for sure when it all happened, but my husband heard what ('Country Crossroads' co-hosts) Jerry Clower, Bill Mack and Leroy Van Dyke were saying about

Worth-based Baptist agency.

Mrs. Hurst opened the conversation. "If I didn't know better, I'd swear you look for the world like Jerry Clower," she told the comedian. "In fact, you look so much like him you could be his twin brother."

Taking Clower's startled reaction for offense she immediately apologized. "I didn't mean to offend you, but you really shouldn't be upset. I'm paying you a real compliment."

She explained. "Jerry Clower is on a radio show that's heard every Sunday afternoon in this area. It's

# DISASTER RELIEF GOAL

# \$25,000

## Disaster Relief Offering Will Give Preparation

(Continued from page 1)

- a) Coordinator
- b) State Committee
- c) Local Committees
- 2. Begin Statewide Manpower Survey.
- 3. Establish Adequate Reserve Fund.

### PHASE II.

- 1. Commit Men To Serve As Disaster Relief Teams.
- 2. Conduct Training Program for Disaster Relief teams.

- 3. Provide Team Members with Uniforms and Necessary I. D. Materials.

- 4. Develop and Distribute Disaster Relief Manual.

### PHASE III.

- 1. Review Carefully Phases I. & II. and Make any Corrections Deemed Wise.
- 2. Obtain and Equip Disaster Relief Mobile Unit.

The Brotherhood Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board has been asked to assume the responsibility as coordinator of the program.

Christianity enough that he thought there might be something to that Christianity. So we went to church . . . (Social Hill Baptist Church, near Royal, Ark., where the family lives), and he became a Christian.

"What's more, all four of our children went to church and became Christians and were baptized. I'd been a Christian since I was a little girl but I'd drifted away. Now we're all in church. You wouldn't believe how that's changed our family, and I give God and 'Country Crossroads' all the credit."

Mrs. Hurst, contacted later, had a further report. "Well, when that man finally got it through to me that he really was Jerry Clower, and that the fellow with him was Jim Rupe, the producer of the show, I was really excited!"

"I got Jerry's autograph and I can't tell you what a blessing it was, just meeting and talking to him. But listen, best of all, since I talked to Jerry my daughter's husband, his mother and daddy, a brother who was bad to drink and a sister-in-law of his have all become Christians and been baptized and are in church — all because of what 'Country Crossroads' did."



Glorieta

### Youth Speaker

Talitha Edwards, Grenada, represented Mississippi Baptists in the Youth Speakers' Tournament at Glorieta, August 10. Accompanying her were Mr. and Mrs. Charles Smith, pictured above. Both Talitha and the Smiths are members of First Church, Grenada, Dr. John Lee Taylor, pastor.

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5  
Thursday, September 2, 1976

## Georgia Baptist Center Dedication Set Sept. 14

ATLANTA (BP)—Georgia Baptists will observe an historic occasion Sept. 14 when their new, \$6-million Baptist Center, which was occupied in Nov. 1975, will be dedicated.

Several hundred Baptist leaders from across the state are expected to attend the formal dedication service planned for 2:30 p.m., Sept. 14 on the Plaza level, according to Searcy S. Garrison of Atlanta, Georgia Baptist Convention Executive Secretary-Treasurer.

The 200,000 square-foot, five-story center is the first building Georgia Baptists have constructed for denominational offices and meetings since the Convention was organized in 1822.

The modern Baptist Center, 2930 Flowers Road, South, houses the executive offices for the executive committee and the convention's state missions program, as well as offices for Baptist agencies and institutions.

The center also has an auditorium which seats 250, a reception room, and a cafeteria. The Baptist Book Store is located also on the ground floor of the center. The mail order center for the book store is scheduled to be expanded to serve the Southeastern United States in 1977.

## O. L. Bayless, Colorado Editor, Tells Retirement

DENVER (BP) — O. L. Bayless, editor of the Rocky Mountain Baptist, weekly newspaper of the Colorado Baptist General Convention, has announced his retirement effective March 1, 1977.

Bayless said in an editorial in the August 6 issue of his publication that he had submitted his retirement request to convention executive director-treasurer Glen E. Braswell and the administrative committee of the convention's executive board on Aug. 3.

He said the announcement was made to allow the board to "proceed with a search for a new editor and perhaps elect him in the December board meeting."

Bayless, who will be 65 in February, joined the Colorado Convention staff in 1960 as secretary of evangelism. He became editor in 1962.

### Revival Dates

Areola (Washington): September 5-10; Roy Raddin, pastor of Second Church, Greenville, evangelist; Tommy Howard of First, Leland, in charge of music; Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; during week at 7:30 p.m.; Cecil Mulloy, pastor.

## Cobra Bite Leads Asian To Hospital And Christ

to find some means to transport Putappa to the hospital. Two hours after the bite, Putappa was carried into the hospital, unconscious from lack of oxygen. Only minutes after arrival he stopped breathing, all muscles had been paralyzed by the venom.

The doctors and nurses provided mechanical respiration and essential antivenin. Additional supplies of antivenin were donated by

other hospitals in the city. For almost five hours the man lay unconscious in the hospital's intensive care unit.

Putappa finally began to recover, regaining consciousness and beginning to breathe on his own. That same night he was told that it was in the name of Jesus his life had been saved.

In the days that followed Putappa required repeated operations

on his hand due to the infection from the bite. While in the hospital, Putappa learned that Jesus had given His life so that he might have eternal life.

Already Putappa is sharing this news with others. Worship of the cobra will no longer have significance for him.

Dr. Rebekah A. Naylor is a Southern Baptist missionary physician in Bangalore, India.

Record). May God bless you and Mrs. Odile in your years of retirement.

Anne McWilliams

Joe and Mabel Odile are two of the finest Christians I know and it is an honor to be numbered among their many friends.

Dr. Odile and I began our service with the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board the same day in 1956, he as associate executive secretary and I as editor of the Baptist Record. For three and one-half years I had the pleasure of working along beside him in Mississippi Baptist life.

For these years since, my duties have included close association with the Baptist state editors, including Dr. Odile. In

## Letters Of Appreciation

(Continued From Page 4)

and from local Baptist Student Unions, but he has frequently spoken a supporting word for Baptist Student Work on the editorial page. We thank him for sharing in our labors.

Ralph B. Winders

On behalf of some 50,000 members of Woman's Missionary Union organization in the state, our state WMU Executive Board, and the staff of Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union, I want to ex-

press our appreciation for Dr. Odile's much continued usefulness in the work of our Lord.

—Marjean Patterson

Dr. Odile, your retirement provides a wonderful opportunity for me to join a great host of your friends in expressing sincere appreciation to you for the significant contribution to Baptist life during your years as editor of the Baptist Record.

You have been firm in your conviction

ings on you and Mrs. Odile as you enter a new era of life.

Your Friend,  
Chester Vaughn

Dr. Odile, how thankful I am to God that six and one-half years ago He impressed upon you to select me as one of your associates. I truly count it a blessing to have had the opportunity of working, for and along side of you during this period of time. I shall never forget the very first Southern Baptist Convention we attended together and how many people from across our Convention would come by to congratulate you upon your editorials or your books or mention to you that they had heard you teach a Bible study in their church somewhere. Then,

be able to emulate some of these things in my own life.

Perhaps in your years of retirement we can enjoy even more this "sweet sweet spirit" of your friendship. Words cannot adequately express my heart feeling, so let me simply say to you — "Thank you for being my boss, pastor, friend and counselor." I know God will continue to bless you and use you, perhaps even more and in a greater way for His Kingdom in these years of retirement. At least this is our prayer for you.

In Christian Love —

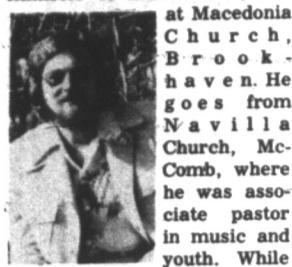
Bill Sellers

As Jerry Clower said, Dr. Odile — "Ain't God good?" When He sent me to Mis-

## Names In The News



New Orleans Seminary was host recently to a meeting of the In-Service Guidance Counselors of Southern Baptist colleges and seminaries. Those representing Mississippi were: (l-r) Charles Melton of Clarke College and Joel Ray of William Carey College, and Paul W. Stevens of New Orleans Seminary.



Rev. Charles B. (Benny) Still has accepted a call as minister of music and youth at Macedonia Church, Brookhaven. He goes from Navilla Church, McComb, where he was associate pastor in music and youth. While in Pike County, he served as associational music director, secretary - treasurer of the Pike County Baptist Ministers' Conference, pianist for the associational Brotherhood, and as president of the McComb Civitan Club. Mr. Still is married to the former Edwin King of Johnston Station, and they have one son, Geoffrey Lane. Mrs. Still served as secretary for the Pike County Baptist Association under Director of Missions, Gile N. Williams. Rev. Don Nerren is pastor at Macedonia.

Goodwater Church, Magee, has called Billy Ready as minister of music and youth. Mr.

Ready is a senior at William Carey College, majoring in voice and church music. Before coming to Goodwater, he was minister of music at Thomas Church in Louisiana for three years. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Ready of Bogalusa. He and his wife, Jan, moved on the field August 19. The church honored them with a reception. Rev. L. Daniel Watts, Jr. is the pastor.

Cecil and Marie Roberson, retired missionaries to Africa, have moved from Clinton to Meridian. Their new address is 3417 Poplar Springs Drive, Meridian.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Smothers, missionaries to Paraguay, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: 323 Cherokee Drive, Twin Lakes, Miss. 38680). Before they were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1972, he was pastor of Concord Baptist Church, Pelahatchie, Miss.

Jim Rosenkrans has answered God's call to preach. He is a member of the Longview Heights Church in Olive Branch, (De Soto), where he serves as deacon and Church Training director. Rosenkrans is presently enrolled in the evening program at State Tech. College. He has preached several times and is available for supply or a pastorate. He is married and father of two daughters and one young son. His pastor, Armond D. Taylor, states that the church will license Bro. Rosenkrans in the near future.

Marilyn Vandegrift, music assistant at Broadmoor, Jackson, is composer of "Sing to the Lord a New Song," which will appear in the Fall 1976 issue of *The Young Musician* magazine.

H. Grady Ward, formerly pastor in Mississippi, is now retired and is available for supply, interim work or conferences. He has been pastor in Marion County, Mississippi, in Saraland, Alabama, and, for the past fourteen years, in Augusta, Georgia. His address is Box 63, Creola, Alabama 36325 (phone 205-675-7228).

Mr. and Mrs. James C. Redding, missionaries to Peru, may be addressed at Apartado 3177, Lima, Peru. Before they were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1964, he was pastor of Fairview Baptist Church, Indiana.

Walter Sisco was recently licensed to preach by Mt. Zion Church, Brookhaven. A native of Lincoln County, he graduated from West Lincoln High School. He has been active in the Mt. Zion Church as a deacon, Sunday School teacher, Church Training leader, Royal Ambassador leader, and choir member. For several years he has been supplying pulpits as a lay speaker. He is married to the former Yvonne Newell. They have two children: Danny, and Tammy. Mr. Sisco is available for pastoral work or as a supply preacher. The Rev. James E. Griffith is pastor of Mt. Zion.

Rev. and Mrs. William L. Smith, missionaries to Brazil, are new in Mississippi on furlough and living in the missionary residence of Woodland Hills Church, Jackson. The address is 3331 Old Canton Road, Jackson 38211, and the telephone number is 362-0633. The Smiths are missionaries to Londrina, Parana, Brazil.

Big Level Church, Wiggins announces that Gwen Keys Hitt has joined the staff as music director. Mrs. Hitt has a B.A. from M.U.W. and M.R.E. from Southern Seminary. She has served in a similar position at Salem Church, Col-



lins. In addition, she has been a staff member of the Pine Belt Regional Mental Health Complex. She is married to Irving Hitt and they have a five year old son, Oliver. Mr. Hitt is the administrator of the Stone County Hospital. The pastor of the Big Level Church is the Rev. Julian Burt.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles P. Long, missionaries to Belgium, are currently in language study in France (address: 8, Square Castiglione, Residence Tuilleries, Paris II 75150, Le Chesnay, France). He is a native of Ethel, Miss.



Bay St. Louis dentist, Dr. B. L. Ramsey, second from left, hands a check to Dr. Bill Osborn, administrative dean of the new degree-granting college opening September 1 on the Gulf Coast. Looking on are Dr. J. Ralph Noonkester, left, president of the college, and the Rev. Nathan Barber, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Bay St. Louis. "Dr. Ramsey is one of our fine deacons," commented Rev. Barber, "and I am delighted that he is showing his support for Christian higher education on the Coast in this way."



MISSISSIPPIANS IN TEXAS—Members of Starkville's First Baptist Church youth choir collected some of Jerry Clower's tee shirt iron-on coon patches during their recent visit to the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission in Fort Worth. Admiring the patch, after learning that Commission programming reaches nearly 100,000,000 people a week, were (from left) Jim Morrow, Phyllis Combs, David Linder, Suzanne Brent, and Laura Moak. Clower is featured in the Commission's "Country Crossroads" radio show.—Radio-TV Commission Photo by Bonita Sparrow



## New Baptist Student Center Is Planned For SMJC

The Building Committee for the new Baptist Student Center at Southwest Mississippi Junior College has been named according to the B&U Area Advisory Committee.

Don Lewman, Sr., and Milton McCall of Pike County; Elliott Moore and Billy McGregor of Amite County; and Rex Piggott and Rev. Billy Murphy of Walthall County make up the new committee. Mrs. W. H. Soaps, B. S. U. Director and Dr. Larry W. Fields, B. S. U. pastor-advisor, will serve as ex-officio members.

The Southwest Baptist Student Union is supported by the Baptist churches of Pike, Walthall, and Mississippi Baptist Associations.

The proposed facility will be built on land adjacent to college property. The land was recently donated to the B. S. U.

PATTAYA, Thailand — More than 150 people participated in a family life conference held here recently at the Baptist encampment. Discussion topics of the Baptist-sponsored conference included sexual problems, family relationships, family worship.

## Seminary Extension To Offer Five Fall Courses

Five courses will be offered this fall through the Mississippi College Seminary Extension Center according to Dr. Eugene I. Farr, director.

Classes will begin Sept. 13 and continue through Nov. 8, meeting one night per week for the nine-week period from 7-9 p.m. at the college. The cost for tuition and registration will be \$12 per course plus the cost of the textbook.

Offered on Monday nights will be "How to Understand the Bible," a basic introduction to the nature and purpose of the Bible and how to understand it. Dr. Farr will be the teacher.

Available on Tuesday nights will be "Life of Christ," a survey of the life of Christ in the historical context. The basic sources of the study are the four Gospels. Dr. Howard E. Spell, emeritus

dean and professor of Bible at Mississippi College, will be the professor.

The other Tuesday night course will be "Romans," a study of the book of Romans, focusing on Paul's exposition of salvation by faith. This book is offered as preparation for the January, 1977, Bible Study and will be taught by Dr. E. R. Pinson, emeritus professor of Bible.

Thursday night courses will include "Public Worship" and "Dynamics of Teaching," taught by Rev. Joe Stovall of Jackson and Dr. Farr, respectively. The "Public Worship" course will be a study of the nature and purpose of worship, with emphasis on the New Testament and Baptist tradition.

"Dynamic Teaching" will be a study of the principles and methods of teaching youth and adults. Persons desiring additional information should write Dr. Farr at 203 W. Lakeview, Clinton, MS. 39056 or call 924-6527.

## Carey Again Offers Free Bible Courses

William Carey College's free evening Bible class will begin September 2, according to an announcement from academic vice-president, Dr. Joseph M. Ernest. A study of the major prophets of the Old Testament, listed as Bible Studies 400 in the Carey catalogue, will be taught by Dr. William Clawson in Tatum Court, room 301, beginning at 6 p.m.

The Hattiesburg-area public is invited by the college each semester to attend these college-level Bible courses tuition free.

Dr. Clawson, who for years taught Old Testament, Hebrew and Archaeology at the Baptist Seminary in Mexico, has been on the William Carey College religion faculty for 12 years.

The Rev. Mike Rasberry has accepted the pastorate of Moselle Memorial Church (Jones).

A native of Rolling Creek Community in Clarke County, he is the son of Mrs. John L. Rasberry and the late Mr. Rasberry. He is married to the former Diane Hales, daughter of Mrs. Pat Hales and the late Mr. Hales.

Rasberry, having pastored in Arizona and Florida, comes to Moselle from Pine Level Church, Leakesville, Ms.

He is enrolled at New Orleans Seminary and will begin his studies there in January. He received his B.A. degree from William Carey College.

They have two children: Mike (Mokie) 6; and Regina, 4.

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Sardis Lake Church is sponsoring a new mission in Panola County, called Hayes Landing Mission. Pictured are the members who began it. Left to right: John Barmer, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Nabors, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Pluckett, and Rev. and Mrs. Ed Gau. These families have cabins at the lake. Mr. Barmer was disturbed that so many children were down on week-ends without benefit of a church so he started a Sunday School for the children on his patio. From this concern the adults became interested, too. The cabin in the background has been bought by the members to be used as a church. They have sometimes as many as 30 in Sunday School.

## Hayes Landing Mission Dedicated

Hayes Landing Mission was dedicated on June 27. Pastor of Sardis Lake Church, the Rev. Thomas Bonds, called for nominations for the name of the mission. Hayes Landing Mission was officially chosen.

The Rev. Ed Gau was called as pastor. The home church of Gau, Rowes Springs Church of Caraway, Arkansas was to ordain him as pastor.

Barbara Pluckett was elected

## Twilight Retreat In Yalobusha

Yalobusha County Baptist Women enjoyed a Twilight Retreat recently at the pavilion overlooking Enid Lake at Yocca Ridge State Park. Mrs. Maye Landreth, associational director of Baptist Women, led the retreat.

Mrs. Anona Stewart gave devotion on "Keepers of the Springs," and Mrs. Shirley Berry played her autoharp and sang. A hamburger supper was served to 45 women.



## Parkway's First Meeting Place

Clint Bowers of Jackson, member of Parkway Church, made a small tent, a replica of the church's first meeting place; this is still on display at the church on West Capitol Street. It was made for the church's Bicentennial celebration earlier this year. As pictured above, he even made the tiny individual benches like ones used in the tent. Parkway was organized in 1927. Dr. Bill Causey is the pastor.

## Kathryn Kuhlman

Her life was as amazing as her miracle ministry. This is her story!

Helen Kooiman Hosier was privileged to spend many hours in intimate talks with Kathryn Kuhlman and those who knew her best. Now, this skilled biographer has written the story no one else could have told. Probing the mysteries that have surrounded Kathryn Kuhlman's life, the author reveals an astonishing, memorable portrait of a woman whose healing power was felt by thousands, and whose ministry influenced millions.

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## Sunday School Lesson: International For September 12

# Heirs Of God's Grace

By Wm. J. Fallis  
Romans 4:1-25;  
Galatians 3:19 to 4:7

Did you notice that the Bible lesson for last Sunday did not mention the word "reconciliation" — although that is the theme for this quarter? You won't find it in the Bible passage for this lesson either. We are sort of building up to it. The word used most often so far is "justify."

It is one of Paul's ways of describing salvation; which was such a great idea for him that one word could not say it all. Some have said that the word means to declare a person righteous, but others argue that it can also mean to make righteous. The justified person is not only forgiven of past sin but is given an uprightness that can affect all his relationships. This is a key word for these first two lessons.

**The Lesson Explained**  
Abraham, Father Of The Faithful (Romans 4)

This chapter in Romans is essential for understanding Paul's references in Galatians to Abraham. Gentiles needed to know the patriarch, and both Gentiles and Jews needed Paul's interpretation of "the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all" (v. 16). He was the most prominent figure in Jewish history, but he did not depend on the law for

## Sunday School Lesson: Life and Work For September 12

# Coping With Change

By Bill Duncan

**Psalms 137:1-6; Jeremiah 29**  
In Marc Connelly's play, *Green Pastures*, the angel Gabriel is speaking to God about all the frustrating things that are happening. Here is how he phrased it, "E v e r y t h i n g n a i l e d d o w n i s c o m i n g l o o s e!"

Each generation tends to identify change as peculiar to its own. Change has always haunted man, and the person who cannot adapt to change can never adjust to life. One of the few permanent features of life is change itself.

If you want proof of how each generation fears change go back 48 centuries to the time when an Assyrian wrote the following on a clay tablet recently dug up in Turkey: "Our earth is degenerate; bribery and corruption are common; children no longer obey their parents; every man wants to write his memoirs and the end of the world is evidently approaching."

In Alvin Toffler's book, *Future Shock*, he describes our accelerated thrust into the future. He reminds us that the great characteristic in modern life is change, such a rapid rate of change that we cannot keep pace with it. We are overstimulated by the new factors and new choices that life keeps forcing upon us. We are dizzyingly disoriented by the premature arrival of the future which comes almost before we have had time to cope with the present. We are continually under stress and therefore, very vulnerable to the assaults of our visible and invisible enemies. To the stresses and strains of modern living Toffler, who acknowledges no debt to the New Testament, attributes much of the moral breakdown of our culture — the spreading use of drugs, the recurring outbreaks of vandalism, and undirected violence. The sick apathy of millions of Christians has come about because of the stress that the enemy has put on the Christian to knock him off balance. The formula to neutralize a strong Christian is: Put him under pressure, rush him

him justification. In verse 3 Paul quoted Genesis 15:6 to show Abraham's relation to God: "Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness." As the great ancestor was justified by faith, so were his children to be saved by faith — not by striving to obey the law. Abraham trusted God long before the law was given. So, true faith preceded mere obedience.

**Beyond The Law As Custodian** (Gal. 3:23-29)

If faith is so important, of what value was the law? In the Bible passage of this lesson Paul answers that question with two analogies. In verse 24 he describes the law as "our custodian," which is a better translation than schoolmaster. The Greek word describes a person responsible for protecting and exercising discipline over a growing child. The law fulfilled a good purpose for a time, but it could not make a person righteous.

After Jesus ("the faith") came, however, men were set right by believing in him, thus becoming children of God. Baptism "i n t o Christ" identified them with him as though they were clothed by him. But it also brought them into a fellowship greater than the difference which have always divided mankind. Oneness in Christ must supersede discriminations based on nationality, sex, and social standing. Verse 29 reads in TEV: "If you belong to Christ, then you are the descendants of Abraham, and will receive what God has promised."

### Into the Time of Inheritance (Gal. 4:1-7)

Paul's second analogy for the law appears in verses 1-2. He pictures a boy who will eventually inherit family property. Before he reaches the time set by his father to receive the inheritance, he is a child and is treated as one by "tutors and governors." During his strict training, he seems no better off than a slave. People under law had a similar experience. That seems to be the direction of Paul's thought, but in verse 3 he says they were "in bondage under the elements of the world." The word for "elements" can be interpreted at least two ways: elementary forms of religion or elemental spirits. In either case, it pointed to a time when both Jew and Gentile had not reached maturity.

"But when the time had fully come" (RSV), God acted to provide the inheritance. His Son came into the world by human birth, and as a Jew was subject to the law. By his death he liberated (redeemed) those under the law. That was God's first purpose in sending him. The second was so "that we might attain the status of sons" (NEB). Because the sonship is real, God has given the Spirit of his Son to believers to acknowledge God as Father. The Aramaic "Abba" was the affectionate word of a boy for his father. Led by the Spirit, Gentile Christians had come into their full inheritance as sons and heirs of grace, along with Jewish believers.

So I sat there, waiting for those eyes to open and look up at me, and you know the scripture that kept coming to my heart, don't you: I will lift up mine eyes . . . from whence cometh my help.

And when I placed the glass on the table and those eyelids closed in fleeting rest, I couldn't, not that I wanted to, close out the verse which has as its gist: If you know how to give good things to your children, how much more your Heavenly Father . . .

For days I had asked God for His presence and strength to be ours during this hard time, and there it was plain as day. I looked up, and into my vicariously aching throat and onto my sympathetically dry lips. He gave to me drops of the still waters beside which He was leading me.

**Springdale Plans Lay Renewal Weekend**

Springdale (Attala) will be in a Lay Renewal Week-end, September 10-11-12. Approximately 20 adults and young people from North and Central Mississippi will be visiting in homes of the members of the church Friday night, Saturday, and Sunday morning.

A schedule of 42 hours of activities has been planned. The pastor is Floyd Higginbotham.

Sidney Ellis of Greenville will be co-ordinator.

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BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 7  
Thursday, September 2, 1976

## Afraid You're Going Deaf?

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### Old Oak Grove Calls Sanford

Rev. Jerry Sanford and his wife have assumed duties at Old Oak Grove Church, Union County, where he is the new pastor.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. James Sanford of New Albany, he attended Northeast Junior College and is a junior at Blue Mountain College.

His wife, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rayburn Rorie of Blue Springs, is a graduate of Northeast Junior College. She is employed in the office of MasterBilt Products.

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### Palestine To Build New Sanctuary

Ground breaking ceremonies were held on August 8 at Palestine Church in Simpson County for a new sanctuary and Sunday School rooms. Total cost of construction will be \$50,500. Palestine is the oldest church in Simpson County, having been organized in 1786. Pictured are: seated, Mrs. Nora Welch, oldest member of the church. Directly behind her from left to right: Dub Bridges, Otis Welch, Guy Barron, Dudley Garrett, Ovis Whittington, Billy Ray Welch, and Travis Ward, deacons; Jerome McLendon, pastor, Mrs. Ervin Dear, Mrs. Dub Bridges, Jerry Welch, Douglas Welch and James Berry, Building Committee members. Not pictured is Mrs. Otis Welch, Building Committee member.

### New Haven To Celebrate 90th Year

Members of New Haven Church near Weir in Choctaw County are planning to celebrate the church's 90th anniversary on September 5.

The Rev. J. C. Hawthorne, a former pastor, will bring the morning message, followed by dinner on the ground and singing in the afternoon.

The church was organized September 5, 1886, with 13 charter members. A local young minister, Rev. J. H. D. Watson, was the first pastor and served 40 years. The present pastor is Rev. Gwin Middleton.

Tom Daves, 98, is the oldest member.

The church members are searching for old pictures and items of interest to display on September 5. Plans have been announced for the wearing of colonial costumes.

Other former pastors have included J. T. Sargent, J. L. Wilson, J. W. Sims, R. A. Eddleman, J. S. Deal, Thurman Adams, J. W. Kitchens, Van Hardin, Earl Brooks, J. V. Wilson, R. L. Jordan, Arnold Jacks, J. B. Middleton, J. C. Hawthorne, Jerry W. Robinson, Jr. and Marvin Cain.

### Devotional

#### I Can't

By Joe Anderson, Pastor, McAdams Church, McAdams Exodus 3:10 - 4:17

Most of our churches have either selected or are in the process of selecting those who will fill positions for the year 1976-1977. Many of you who have served faithfully on the nominating committee have heard excuse after excuse. To those of you who offered the excuses, I invite your attention to this selection of scripture and also to the results. When God called Moses, he offered four excuses as to why he couldn't serve.

In verse 11, his first excuse was that he wasn't big enough for the job. He was only a shepherd, and Pharaoh was the most powerful man on earth. To this excuse God answered, "I will be with you." The most powerful man on earth can't stand against God.

In verse 13, his second excuse was that the people would want to know who sent him. By what authority would he speak? To this God answered, "I Am That I Am has sent you." The God of eternity, the covenant God has sent you. God still reveals himself to Christians as their authority.

In chapter four, verse one, the third excuse was offered: "They won't believe me." To this, God answered by giving him signs of his sender. God will give believability to your service even though your efforts may not always be successful.

In verse ten of chapter four, the fourth excuse was offered: "I am not eloquent." To this God answered, "I made your mouth and I will put the words there." We often find ourselves speechless, but when we rely on God, he puts the words there. Often the best speech is no speech at all. In this case, God has some definite things for Moses to say.

In verses twelve through seventeen, Moses rejected the call of God to service so God sent his brother Aaron with him to be his spokesman. The tragedy of this is that Aaron led the people into idolatry when they were in the wilderness (chapter 32).

What catastrophes will God's people have to endure because of our excuses for not ministering?



At the Immanuel Church homecoming-birthday celebration for the Rev. Francis Gehring he is shown at left with Mrs. Gehring, the Rev. Davis Berryhill holding his two-year-old son Bradley, Mrs. Berryhill, and in front, four-year-old Billy Berryhill. Mrs. L. L. Lewis is seated at right.

### Immanuel, Magnolia Celebrates Pastor Gehring's 80th Birthday

Sunday, June 6, the members of the Immanuel Church, Magnolia, held their homecoming in connection with a celebration of the 80th birthday of their pastor, the Rev. Francis Gehring. Gehring came to Magnolia in 1932 and has served faithfully throughout the years. The assistant pastor is the Rev. Davis Berryhill.

After morning worship services the congregation moved to the Magnolia Community Center where a feast awaited. At the head of the table which was in the shape of a "T" was a chair reserved for the Rev. Gehring. The chair was covered in white with pink roses. On the table in front of the Rev. Gehring's place was a cake baked by Mrs. Gillis Windham, in the shape of a cross while at his left was an American Flag Cake, a gift of the church.

Mrs. Windham, church hostess, assisted by her husband, had created a unique scene of the present and former church, all laid out on green grass. The tiny older building represented the first church and a miniature exact replica of the new Immanuel Baptist Church. A tiny tree was placed in the arrangement and represented the tree which still stands after 24 years. Placed in the center was a tiny white cup holding paper and matches which reminded the church members of the burning of the note when the new church paid off its debt. There were even two miniature

weeds that represented the field of tall grasses on the church lot when the church was first built. In the front and center was a Bible surrounded by yellow roses. Over 100 persons attended the fellowship.

A kiss is a noun that is both proper and common.

The physical condition of a man can best be judged from what he takes two of at a time—stairs or pills.

### Harrisburg, Tupelo, To Sponsor

#### Puppet Seminar September 8

A seminar on the use of professional-quality puppets as effective learning tools will be held at Harrisburg Church, Tupelo, on September 8, from 6:30 - 10 p.m.

The three and one-half hour training session will be conducted by professionals from Puppet Productions, Inc. (PPI), a San Diego, California firm which trained over 10,000 persons in nationwide seminars last year.

Video tape and film segments, and live demonstrations will provide firsthand visual lessons on the production of professional-quality puppet shows.

The universal appeal of puppets is also reflected in the thousands of churches which have begun using puppets in their education programs.

"Puppets create an excellent



### First, Harvey, Burns Note

On August 1, Harvey, First Church, Petal, commemorated the final payment of the building mortgage by burning the note. The service was conducted by the P. E. Downey, pastor. Left to right: C. W. Reaves, deacon, Pastor Downey, William Minter and Wirt Clark, deacons. Also the church presented Mr. and Mrs. Downey with silver candelabra in appreciation for their service.

### Pastor Preaches At Oil Rig 100 Miles Out In The Gulf

By Mrs. A. B. McCraw

The Rev. James E. Walker, pastor of Calvary Church, Columbia, recently was invited by Shell Oil Company, to visit their operations off shore, some one hundred miles south of New Orleans, and hold a religious service.

Driving to New Orleans, Mr. Walker was met by an employee of the company, where they boarded a plane, flying out over the marshes and river area of the off shore field in the Gulf. Upon arrival he was met by Tim Buckley, Columbian, an employee of the company, who took him by boat over the vast operation.

After returning to the living quarters of the men, where a meal was served, he with the employees, including those off duty, in charge of operations and others with minor work, gathered in one of the rooms for the special program.

After a period of singing and prayer, Mr. Walker delivered his message, and at the conclusion,

### Oakland, Corinth To Celebrate 15th Anniversary

Oakland Church of Corinth, will celebrate their fifteenth anniversary on September 12. Miracle Day goals have been set of \$501 in Sunday School, and \$9,037.85 for the offering. All former pastors will be present and all former members and friends of the church are invited.

Revival services will begin Monday night, Sept. 13 at 7:30 p.m. with the pastor, Tommy Vinson, doing the preaching.

### Gallmans To Meet At Palestine

The Gallman family will have an all-day meeting at Palestine Church, Hinds County, on September 5. A basket lunch will be served after morning worship. The public is invited.

six men made definite commitments.

This type special religious activity is relatively new, but growing interest has been expressed in it. It is believed these experiences help to build a better working relationship, and contribute to greater production and service. The pastor says that he feels this was one of the great experiences of his life, and that he rejoices over the spirit that was evident among the people.

Spending the night in the living quarters of the officials off shore, he was flown back to New Orleans the next morning.

Since the trip, Walker has received special commendation and appreciation from the oil company for the services rendered their employees, by the type program given.

Almost every physician has his favorite disease.

Initiative is doing the right thing without being told.



### Late Pastor's Children Meet At Dumas

Nine of the ten children of the late Rev. and Mrs. Marion Hill of Dumas got together on August 8 for a reunion. Eight of the ten are members of the Dumas Baptist Church. It is unusual for a family of this size, with families now of their own, to settle in the same community. Front row, l to r: John Hill, deacon; Arnold Hill,

### Adams Named

#### ACTION

#### Supervisor

NASHVILLE — Ernest R. Adams, supervisor of the general officers section in the Sunday School department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, has been named supervisor of the ACTION project section in that department.

The ACTION project section was established to provide adequate field servicing for ACTION campaigns. Under Adams, the ACTION project section will be responsible for helping churches interpret the ACTION Sunday School Enrollment Plan so that growth will be permanent.

Presently, the ACTION consultants, including Andy Anderson, creator of the ACTION Plan, work primarily with state Baptist convention projects, particularly associational ACTION campaigns.

### Off The Record

"Does bigamy mean having one wife too many?" a youngster asked the man next door. "Well, not exactly," the neighbor replied. "A man can have one wife too many and not be a bigamist!"

Gus: How did you find the weather while you were away?

Russ: Oh, I just went outside and there it was!

One cannibal declared: "I don't know what to make of my wife." Another cannibal said: "Don't worry, I'll give you the recipe I used."

An onlooker to a hotel fire asked: "How come the hotel burned down? Weren't the firemen on the job quickly?" Another spectator answered: "Yes, they were, but they couldn't get the hose through the revolving door."

A young man was receiving some hardheaded advice from an uncle, who declared: "Yes, Tommy, fools are certain; wise men hesitate." "Are you sure, Uncle John?" Tommy asked. The uncle replied, "Yes, my boy; certain of it."



### Bethany Dedicates Bus

Bethany Church (Jeff Davis) recently dedicated their new church bus. Bus committee members, pictured are: Billy Joe Page, Jerry Burkett, Herman Duncan, and pastor W. L. Ainsworth. Pictured with the committee is Mrs. Percy "Tip" Rankin, one of the first contributors to the bus fund. The originators of the bus fund Mrs. Maggie Polk, and Mrs. Etta Bass, were not present, due to illness.